AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) [[A]] In a hardware description language (HDL) batch simulation farm having multiple simulation clients coupled to an instrumentation server, a method for providing centralized access to trends in count event ~~information from testing of a hardware simulation model within a batch simulation farm of simulation clients and an instrumentation server~~ data, wherein the count event data represents sequences of signal values that indicate the occurrence of events triggered during simulation testing of HDL models by the simulation clients, said method comprising:

utilizing said instrumentation server to:

~~receiving~~ receive a first set of count event data ~~for said hardware simulation model within said instrumentation server from one or more simulation clients~~ for a first simulation test of an HDL model;

~~generating~~ generate a first ~~and a second~~ counter report ~~for said hardware simulation model, wherein said first and second counter reports are derived from said count event data received by said instrumentation server~~ from the first set of count event data, wherein the first counter report specifies a number of occurrences of one or more count events for the first simulation test and further specifies a number of simulation cycles over which the first simulation test was processed;

receive a second set of count event data for a second simulation test of the HDL model;

generate a second counter report from the second set of count event data, wherein the second counter report specifies a number of occurrences of one or more count events for the second simulation test and further specifies a number of simulation cycles over which the second simulation test was processed;

~~comparing~~ compare said first counter report to said second counter report to detect variations in rates of occurrences of count events recorded in the first and second counter reports, said comparing including:

utilizing the specified number of simulation cycles specified by said first counter report and the specified number of simulation cycles specified by the second counter report to normalize the number of count event occurrences

specified by said first counter report with respect to the number of count event occurrences specified by said second counter report; and

determining the difference in the normalized numbers of occurrences of corresponding count events specified by said first counter report and said second counter report; and

~~responsive to said comparison, generating~~ generate a counter difference report ~~within said instrumentation server that conveys count event trends associated with said simulation model under different simulation testcases~~ that specifies one or more count events for which the determined difference in the normalized numbers of occurrences of corresponding count events exceeds a pre-specified difference threshold.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

executing a testcase ~~with respect to~~ using said ~~hardware~~ HDL simulation model within said one or more simulation clients;

receiving an aggregate count event packet from said one or more simulation clients, wherein said aggregate count event packet includes count event data recorded during said testcase; and

within said instrumentation server, storing said count event data within count data storage files.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said first and second counter reports are generated ~~in response to user~~ as output from count event queries processed with respect to said count data storage files.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said first and second counter reports are ~~converted~~ generated directly from said counter data storage files.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second counter reports each include a simulator cycle count ~~field~~ value that ~~indicates~~ specifies the number of ~~simulator~~ simulation cycles over which ~~count event data is recorded during testcase execution on said hardware simulation model~~ simulation testing was processed, said ~~comparing said first~~

~~counter report to said second counter report~~ normalizing the number of count event occurrences specified by said first counter report with respect to the number of count event occurrences specified by said second counter report further comprising, computing a count normalization factor ~~between count event data contained within said first and second counter reports utilizing~~ that is a ratio of the values of the simulator cycle count ~~field~~ values contained in said first and second counter reports.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] In a hardware description language (HDL) batch simulation farm having multiple simulation clients coupled to an instrumentation server, a system for providing centralized access to trends in count event ~~information from testing of a hardware simulation model within a batch simulation farm of simulation clients and an instrumentation server~~ data, wherein the count event data represents sequences of signal values that indicate the occurrence of events triggered during simulation testing of HDL models by the simulation clients, said system comprising:

means within said instrumentation server for:

~~processing means for~~ receiving a first set of count event data ~~for said hardware simulation model within said instrumentation server from one or more simulation clients~~ for a first simulation test of an HDL model;

~~processing means for~~ generating a first ~~and a second~~ counter report ~~for said hardware simulation model, wherein said first and second counter reports are derived from said count event data received by said instrumentation server~~ from the first set of count event data, wherein the first counter report specifies a number of occurrences of one or more count events for the first simulation test and further specifies a number of simulation cycles over which the first simulation test was processed;

receiving a second set of count event data for a second simulation test of the HDL model;

generating a second counter report from the second set of count event data, wherein the second counter report specifies a number of occurrences of one or more count events for the second simulation test and further specifies a number of simulation cycles over which the second simulation test was processed;

~~processing means for~~ comparing said first counter report to said second counter report to detect variations in rates of occurrences of count events recorded in the first and second counter reports, said comparing including:

utilizing the specified number of simulation cycles specified by said first counter report and the specified number of simulation cycles specified by the second counter report to normalize the number of count event occurrences specified by said first counter report with respect to the number of count event occurrences specified by said second counter report; and

determining the difference in the normalized numbers of occurrences of corresponding count events specified by said first counter report and said second counter report; and

~~processing means responsive to said comparison for~~ generating a counter difference report ~~within said instrumentation server that conveys count event trends associated with said simulation model under different simulation testcases~~ that specifies one or more count events for which the determined difference in the normalized numbers of occurrences of corresponding count events exceeds a pre-specified difference threshold.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, further comprising:

~~processing~~ means for executing a testcase ~~with respect to~~ using said ~~hardware~~ HDL simulation model within said one or more simulation clients;

~~processing~~ means for receiving an aggregate count event packet from said one or more simulation clients, wherein said aggregate count event packet includes count event data recorded during said testcase; and

~~processing~~ means within said instrumentation server for storing said count event data within count data storage files.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said first and second counter reports are generated ~~in response to user~~ as output from count event queries processed with respect to said count data storage files.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein said first and second counter reports are ~~converted~~ generated directly from said counter data storage files.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 6, wherein said first and second counter reports each include a simulator cycle count ~~field~~ value that ~~indicates~~ specifies the number of ~~simulator~~ simulation cycles over which ~~count event data is recorded during testcase execution on said hardware simulation model~~ simulation testing was processed, said ~~processing~~ means for ~~comparing said first counter report to said second counter report~~ normalizing the number of count event occurrences specified by said first counter report with respect to the number of count event occurrences specified by said second counter report further comprising ~~processing~~ means for computing a count normalization factor ~~between count event data contained within said first and second counter reports utilizing~~ that is a ratio of the values of the simulator cycle count ~~field~~ values contained in said first and second counter reports.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program product~~ tangible computer-readable medium having encoded thereon in data storage media, computer-executable instructions for, within a hardware description language (HDL) batch simulation farm having multiple simulation clients coupled to an instrumentation server, providing centralized access to trends in count event ~~information from testing of a hardware simulation model within a batch simulation farm of simulation clients and an instrumentation server~~ data, wherein the count event data represents sequences of signal values that indicate the occurrence of events triggered during simulation testing of HDL models by the simulation clients, said ~~computer program product~~ computer-executable instructions adapted for performing a method comprising:

~~program instruction means for~~ receiving count event data ~~for said hardware simulation model within said instrumentation server from one or more simulation clients~~ for a first simulation test of an HDL model;

~~program instruction means for~~ generating a first ~~and a second~~ counter report ~~for said hardware simulation model, wherein said first and second counter reports are derived from said count event data received by said instrumentation server~~ from the first set of count event data, wherein the first counter report specifies a number of occurrences of one or more count events

for the first simulation test and further specifies a number of simulation cycles over which the first simulation test was processed;

receiving a second set of count event data for a second simulation test of the HDL model;

generating a second counter report from the second set of count event data, wherein the second counter report specifies a number of occurrences of one or more count events for the second simulation test and further specifies a number of simulation cycles over which the second simulation test was processed;

~~program instruction means for~~ comparing said first counter report to said second counter report to detect variations in rates of occurrences of count events recorded in the first and second counter reports, said comparing including:

utilizing the specified number of simulation cycles specified by said first counter report and the specified number of simulation cycles specified by the second counter report to normalize the number of count event occurrences specified by said first counter report with respect to the number of count event occurrences specified by said second counter report; and

determining the difference in the normalized numbers of occurrences of corresponding count events specified by said first counter report and said second counter report; and

~~program instruction means responsive to said comparison for~~ generating a counter difference report ~~within said instrumentation server that conveys count event trends associated with said simulation model under different simulation testcases~~ that specifies one or more count events for which the determined difference in the normalized numbers of occurrences of corresponding count events exceeds a pre-specified difference threshold.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-readable medium of claim 11, said method further comprising:

~~program instruction means for~~ executing a testcase ~~with respect to~~ using said ~~hardware~~ HDL simulation model within said one or more simulation clients;

~~program instruction means for~~ receiving an aggregate count event packet from said one or more simulation clients, wherein said aggregate count event packet includes count event data recorded during said testcase; and

~~program instruction means~~ within said instrumentation server, [[for]] storing said count event data within count data storage files.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said first and second counter reports are generated ~~in response to user~~ as output from count event queries processed with respect to said count data storage files.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said first and second counter reports are ~~converted~~ generated directly from said counter data storage files.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer program product~~ computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein said first and second counter reports each include a simulator cycle count ~~field~~ value that ~~indicates~~ specifies the number of ~~simulator~~ simulation cycles over which ~~count event data is recorded during testcase execution on said hardware simulation model~~ simulation testing was processed, said ~~program instruction means for comparing said first counter report to said second counter report~~ normalizing the number of count event occurrences specified by said first counter report with respect to the number of count event occurrences specified by said second counter report further comprising, ~~program instruction means for~~ computing a count normalization factor ~~between count event data contained within said first and second counter reports utilizing~~ that is a ration of the values of the simulator cycle count field values contained in said first and second counter reports.